Expansion plan of SAIL

3807. SHRI N.K. SINGH:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) has drawn up plans to borrow nearly Rs. 5000 crores in the current fiscal year to increase the expansion capacity of its plants;

(b) if so, how SAIL would borrow such huge amount and repay the same; and

(c) the details of steel plants in which such investments are likely to be made and to what extent the expansion capacity of the SAIL plants are to be increased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) The Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) plans to borrow upto Rs.6500 crores in the current financial year for expansion and modernization of its plants. The funds are proposed to be borrowed in combination of bonds and term loans for a period of 5 to 15 years from banks and other institutions. The repayment of loans on maturity would be out internal resources of the company.

(c) SAIL has undertaken the Modernization and expansion of its integrated steel plants at Bhilai, Bokaro, Rourkela, Durgapur, Burnpur (IISCO Steel Plant) and the special Steel Plant at Salem. SAIL proposes to increase the production of hot metal from the present level of 14.6 million tonnes per annum (2006-07) to 23.46 MTPA in the present phase.

Privatization/Disinvestment of PSUs

3808. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the undertakings under the Ministry which have been privatized or where disinvestment has taken place till date;

(b) the undertaking-wise amount of funds received by Government through such move;

(c) whether any irregularity has taken place in the course of privatization or disinvestment of these undertakings;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) Disinvestment has taken place in the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) in the years 1992-95 and KIOCL Limited in the Year 1995-96.

(b) The Government received Rs.1036.33 crores and Rs.11.40 crores from such disinvestments in SAIL and KIOCL Ltd. respectively.

(c) The Government is not aware of any irregularities in respect of these disinvestments.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Hike in price of foodgrain

†3809. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a report, 'Agricultural Outlook 2009-2018' has been published as a result of concerned efforts made by UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, and Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that according to this report the prices of cereals have declined in the rich countries while the situation is quite contrary in poor countries;

(c) if so, the facts thereof, and whether there will be a rise in the number of poor people in poor countries due to price-rise; and

(d) if so, reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) According to the Agricultural Outlook 2008-2017, food price inflation (not just foodgrain prices but all food prices) was generally higher in a sample of 15 developing countries as compared to 10 developed countries over the period from February, 2007 to February 2008, though food price inflation in India, at 5.8% was the lowest in the group of developing countries.

According to the above report, there was a marked slowing in food price inflation during the period February, 2008 to February, 2009 most developing and developed countries but not in India where the rate of food price inflation accelerated sharply. However, there is substantial variation among countries and generalizations are not possible.

As per the FAO estimates, the number of malnourished people in the world increased to 1.02 billion in 2009 as a result of higher food prices and the financial crisis. Whether this number will rise still further depends on how quickly the world economy recovers from the crisis, trend in food prices in future and how soon wages catch up with higher food prices.

In order to increase availability of foodgrains and to have a check on their prices, the Government is implementing a number of schemes such as the National Food Security Mission, Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM), Integrated Cereals Development Programme etc.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.